Mizoram, Assam, West Bengal and Bihar, with pipeline length of 1575 KM with in the Indian territory. No decision has been taken to build this pipeline yet.

Closure of unauthorised petrol pumps

154. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether taken a serious note of proliferation of unauthorized petrol pumps in several States, Government have asked them to take immediate steps for closure of such outlets that has been set up in contravention of rules;

(b) whether oil marketing companies have been asked to submit a time-bound action plan for setting up rural outlets in areas where these unauthorized pumps exists;

(c) whether the Ministry has asked the States for details of unauthorized pumps and take immediate steps for their closure; and

(d) the States which are involved and how many have agreed for closure of unauthorized pumps?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Government have received reports of the existence of petty dealers or barrel storage points for retailing diesel in rural areas. As these are not in consonance with the provisions of Motor Sprit and High Speed Diesel Control Order, the State Governments have been asked to take necessary steps to identify and close such unauthorized pumps. With a view to meeting the demands in the rural areas, the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have been asked to consider setting up rural outlets on commercial considerations. The OMCs are setting up low cost retail outlets in rural areas like Kisan Seva Kendra by IOC, Hamara Pump by HPCL and Rural Outlet by BPCL.

Attraction of Foreign Tourists

155. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's earnings from inbound foreign tourists has doubled in three years in 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the action plan of Government to give a further boosts to tourism, especially from foreign lands, to increase inflow of foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) The foreign exchange earnings from inbound tourism, estimated at US $2923 million in the year 2002, have risen to US$ 5731 million in the year 2005, showing a growth of 96% in three years time.

(c) A number of initiative have been taken by the Ministry for promoting arrivals of foreign tourist and increasing foreign exchange earning from tourism. These include:-

- Development of tourist spots under its various schemes of infrastructure development for tourist circuits and destinations;
- Focusing on growth of hotel infrastructure particularly budget hotels;
- Enhancing connectivity through augmentation of air capacity and improving road infrastructure to major tourist attractions;
- Direct approach to the consumers through Electronic and Print media through the "Incredible India" Campaign;
- Creation of World Class Collaterals;
- Centralized Electronic Media Campaign;
- Direct co-operative marketing with the Airlines, tour operators and wholesalers overseas;
- Greater focus in the merging markets particularly in the region of China, North East Asia and South East Asia;
- Participation in Trade Fairs & Exhibitions;
- Optimize Editorial PR and Publicity;
- Use of Internet and web marketing;
- Generating tourist Publications; and

- Re-inforced hospitality programmes including grant of air passages to invite the media personnel, tour operator on familiarization tour to India to get first hand knowledge on various tourism products.

Tourism Master Plan for holy places

156. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:
SHRI VINAY KATIYAR:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared Tourism Master Plan with emphasis on strategic planning for long-term tourism development with focus on infrastructure at holy places;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to implement the said plan?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) During the year 2002 and 2003, the Ministry of Tourism had commissioned 20-year Perspective Plan for the States/UTs, with the objective and promotion of tourism and development of tourist infrastructure in all areas, including holy/religious places. The Plans, *inter-alia,* evaluated the existing tourism scenario of the States, identified tourism projects, destinations and circuits along with requirements of infrastructures for their development. Besides evaluating the infrastructural requirement, the Perspective Plans have given an Action Plan for development of tourism in the States in the short and long terms.

(c) As the development and promotion of tourist spots/places in States/UTs is primarily the responsibility of State/UTs Governments concerned, the 20-Year Perspective Plans were forwarded to them for taking further necessary action for development of tourism . Central Financial Assistance is also given to the State Government to implement prioritized destination and circuit infrastructre improvement projects formulated by them. A Statement giving a list of projects sanctioned to the State Governments at holy/religious places during the year 2005-06 is enclosed.